



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

64 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2013

Volume 64 Number 11

www.phil-mont.org

November 2013

Contributions from Bob, W3NE & Fred, KA3IRJ; two meetings; Old Timers' Night; Veteran's Day; Thanksgiving; and DST ends

"... I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth ..."



John F. Kennedy
May 29, 1917- November 22, 1963

A Message From The Vice Prez:

Hello Club Member;

Continuing to hold events that include the Annual Club Auctionfest, Field Day, supporting the Club's Scholarship Fund maintaining a positive image in the community in which we hold Club meetings and more. The Club Repeater for instance, requires your financial and civic support. With your input, we can produce a Ballot listing the nomination of Members who want to elected a Club Officer or Director for Year 2014. My contact information is on page 2, of the Blurb. You may also contact me on the Club Repeater Sunday morning and Tuesday night nets 0930 and 2000, respectively, local time. Contact me today because Tomorrow Never Comes. Thank you, in advance.

Al Tribble
W3STW

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: WU3I (14) KB3SJS(14) KB3MIV(14) WA3KIO(13) N3QV(13) K3GBA(13) W3AOK(A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV
		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	
Committees Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV	DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE	Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK	Scholarship: W3RM Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB2ERL Bob Nicotera bnic1903@msn.com
Vice Pres: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com
Sec: ND3B Rick Devirgiliis nd3b@arrl.net
Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...



Well it looks like fall is officially here; you can tell by the cool nights and brisk mornings. This will be your last opportunity to get that outside antenna work done before the cold actually sets in, so get to it so you can enjoy your radio on those cold winter evenings.

Last month's report mysteriously disappeared into Internet Cyberland never to be heard from again, so if you're reading this I guess this month's bits and bytes managed to get thru.

We're still looking for a few good candidates for the upcoming elections. Like I said before it's a lot of fun and it would give you some knowledge of the club's inner workings, so if you think you would like to give it a shot either as an officer or a board member let Al W3STW know at the next meeting and we'll get you on the ballot.

November promises to be a good meeting with "Old Timers Night," come out and mingle with some of our senior members and hear some good stories of the "good old days of ham radio."

On another note temps this winter are forecasted to be above normal so hopefully we should dance thru hurricane season which ends in November and skate thru winter unscathed, I hope they can get it right, we don't need any surprises this year not after what we got last year.

And finally we all look forward to the New Year with our most looked-forward-to event, the Philmont "Auctionfest," it promises to be another great event so start getting your stuff together now so you don't get left out.

So stay in tune and stay in touch, hope to see you all at the general meeting on the 13th of the month.

As always don't forget to support our nets on the repeater: the digital net Tuesday evenings at 7 pm and the Sunday morning net at 9:30am.

That's all for now see you all soon

73 Bob, KB2ERL

Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

05 Al Tribble - W3STW

12 Arnold Sadwin - KC2HX

14 Bill Nichelson - W3KOC

15 Edythe Victor (XYL WA2DTW)

19 Brad Swanson - N3GLH

22 Bill Popovic - W3AOK

23 Ted Hassell - KB3HAQ

24 Samuel Leidy - KF3G

Delores Policarpo (XYL N3PP)

27 Mel Toren - N2MT

29 Bob Nicotero - KB2ERL

Lyn Crompton (XYL WA3DSP)

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. had:

83 Full paid members

10 Family members

2 Youth members

1 Honorary member



*The VE test session is Thursday evening
the 21st this month.*

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary...

Membership Meeting October 9, 2013

The Wednesday October 9, 2013 meeting of the Philmont Radio Club was opened 8:37 PM at the normal meeting room at Roxborough Hospital by Al, W3STW.

Al asked for committee reports starting with treasurers report. Dick, W3RM reported that the Philmont treasury was in good shape. Two \$2000 scholarships have been awarded.

The VE chairman reported that the next VE session would be October 24 at the ambulance association. When asked about how the tests were going he reported that sessions generally averaged about 5-6 applicants and that most technician tests were at or near 100% passed and that in general there is a very good pass percentage.

Steve, WU3I reported attendance included 20 members and 7 visitors.

The 50/50 number was drawn by Penny, XYL of KA3IRJ and after some searching by everyone it was discovered that Fred was the winner! Penny donated her winnings back to the club. She also commented about the 50/50 at ham camp which WB3QW won. Penny matched the winnings and it was all donated to the local fire department.

Steve, WU3I announced Boy Scouts of America - Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) will be held at St. Catherine's of Sienna Church in Horsham on October 19.

Ed, KB3IV again asked for volunteers for net control operators. Most needed is the 2 meter 9:30 AM net.

Bill, W3AOK reported the repeater is working fine. He talked about repeater activity being down and encouraged everyone to use the repeater more often. Doug, WA3DSP asked about the six meter repeater that had been discussed at the last meeting and Steve, WU3I reported that the receiver and transmitter had been sold for \$40

Al, W3STW gave a plug for the Tuesday evening 7 PM digital net on the repeater and encourage members to join in.

Al, W3STW gave a nominating committee report. The committee has been formed and he reports it is going well. Al expressed his desire to run for Vice President but in reading his copy of the bylaws it appeared he would need a waiver since he was a member of the nominating committee. Ed, WU3I in reading the most recent bylaws determined that that requirement no longer exists and Al will not need a waiver to throw his hat in the ring. Nominees will be announced at the next meeting and there will be an opportunity for additional nominations at that meeting.

A request was made to acknowledge and thank Penny and Fred for their great hospitality at ham camp in August. Everyone agreed and thanked them.

Steve, WU3I introduced the speaker Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO from the Holmesburg club. He gave a great talk about the annual 13 Colonies Special Event. In introducing Bob, Steve talked about how much he enjoyed the participating in the 2013 event. The next 13 colonies event is July 1-6, 2013. This is just two days after field day so he is hoping people will have recovered and support the event. The WM3PEN event QSL for 2014 will honor Betsy Ross. There was a lot of interest in Bob's talk so we may have some additional PMRC participants next year.

Respectfully submitted, **Doug, WA3DSP**, acting secretary. (*Many thanks Doug! – ND3B*)

This excellent report about Ham Camp from Fred:

Dear Mr. Editor:

If you would be so kind, it may be worth mentioning that Ham Camp attendee Richard Rupert passed his test/s during the festivities with Bill (W3AOK), Steve (WU3I), and myself as the overseeing VEs. Richard scored 100% (!) on this Technician Exam, and then passed (and did very well on) the General test! The net result is that we have a new General Class Ham in our midst, please welcome KC3BDL.

As is their habit, Bill and Steve went way above and beyond the call of duty. Not only did they perform the aforementioned testing, and generally pitched in with labor and materials to help make

Ham Camp a success - in their spare time (sic) between helping folks with antennas and hooking up rigs they restrung a lost pull rope on one of the newly erected support poles using a combination old PECO high voltage pole and a fishing rod. It still seems physically impossible to me for them to have done this, but the rope is up there! I tell you Rick, when it comes to stringing up antennas and being generally great people those two are the best!

And you are correct, just as we had hoped the shindig turned out to be a great party with a

little radio thrown in. Phil-Mont is not a contest Club, and in keeping with that spirit socializing took precedence over anything else. The highlights for me (radiowise) were seeing Jack (K3CHR) work an aeronautical mobile circulating overhead @ 3000 ft on VHF simplex using his handheld, John (KB3SJS) working a bunch of great DX contacts using nothing more than the hamstick on their pop-up camper, and Jim (KA2FFP) operating his impressive array of gear in the big tent completely on solar power. Local Ham Denny (KA3BVJ) strung up a long wire and I witnessed him copying some VLF digital signals from the USCG, and several folks made use of the FT-450 20M station that we had set up for casual operators on the back patio.

In other noteworthy happenings, Basil the Winerhunt (pronounced Vee-nehr-hoont) of John (KB3SJS) and Kieko (KB3SJT) heard the call of the Wild at one point chewed through his restraints, and decided to bolt for the horizon. This resulted in a mad chase led by Kieko and Penny through a fallow hay

field festooned with poison ivy. The only clue to the location of the animal was the movement of 4ft high

grass as he traversed the 40 acre field. Eventually, his wanderlust having abated, he was recaptured in fine shape. However he and many of his pursuers had to partake in cat baths of poison ivy oil removing lotion followed by copious dousing at the outdoor sink. The dog was especially displeased at this turn of events, but everyone else had a pretty good laugh.

Sam (K3GBA) showed up at Ham Camp at the helm of his steed, refusing to allow his Grandson Marco to drive any of the way up, and they made the journey in record time. Chief Rooster Mike Errigo (WB3EQW) and Eastern PA ARRL Technical Coordinator Joe Dozpat (W3UVP) were among the visiting dignitaries, and my friend Mike Butler of Warren Ohio won the prize for furthest traveled, riding in solo on his BMW touring bike and pitching a tent. Frank (W3MHP) had a mechanical breakdown early Sunday morning on his way to pick up Jack (K3CHR) from services, literally leaving him standing at the Church. A quick rescue party was organized and when we pulled in to the Church parking lot there came Jack in a Sunbury Police Cruiser driven by a rather attractive blonde female Officer. I tell you Rick, you cannot leave that guy on his own for five minutes in your town without him getting into something! (hihi)

All in all it was a pretty good time and there has been some ugly talk up this way about doing it again.

Thanks for all your efforts and 73!

Fred , KA3IRJ

Have you heard about D-Star?

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

de Jim, NS3K

THE RCA FACTORY

It wasn't pretty!

Bob Thomas, W3NE

The factory where RCA manufactured and tested television studio equipment evolved from 1930-era mass production of home radio sets. Unfortunately, most of the primitive methods and attitudes of those ancient days were inherited along with the factory floor space. Production and test facilities for broadcast equipment were adjacent to each other on 17-2, RCA jargon for second floor of Building 17. That venerable building, with a tall tower topped by an illuminated stained glass tableau of *Nipper* in the iconic "His Master's Voice," is one of the few RCA buildings still standing in Camden. It was converted several years ago to residential lofts by developer Carl Dranoff.

Most television studio equipment was constructed on steel "bathtub" chassis like the one in the illustration. They were horizontal frames in the shape of a shallow U, with tubes plugged into the open front of the U, and circuit components on the back. Chassis were 19" wide and made in multiples of 1³/₄" high, with slots for mounting screws to match tapped holes in racks regardless of where the chassis was positioned. A rack full of chassis had a well-ventilated neat appearance in the front, where tubes, controls and test points were accessible. Components and terminal boards were exposed for service at the rear.

Production started by mounting all mechanical parts on the front of the chassis and terminal boards and connectors on the rear. This work was divided into small stages, each described in detailed assembly instructions that specified type of hardware and orientation of every component. Women completed an individual assembly stage then passed the chassis to the next operator. Each small assembly stage took about the same time to accomplish to maintain a smooth flow. Chassis with completed mechanical assemblies were transferred to another area for wiring with pre-cut and stripped wires or cables, and addition of small components. This was also divided into small stages with explicit instructions for each.

The RCA wiring production line was an appalling ey opener for anyone with "normal" experience building electronic equipment. All soldering was done with 100-Watt American Beauty irons operating on 220 Volts! The high line voltage was necessary because of the load

from so many soldering irons in one place, but maybe it wasn't exciting when there was a short in an iron or its cord! Even more stunning to the uninitiated was the way the ladies had been trained to hold their soldering iron: with the hand and fingers wrapped around the handle and forearm raised as if intending to stab someone in the back! How they were able to obtain precise control of the iron's tip with that illogical grip was beyond me, but they all did it and their work was not too bad in spite of the awkward appearance.

Completed chassis were sent to Quality Control for mechanical inspection prior to electrical test. An inspector examined each soldered joint individually, and if it was sound, a dab of red paint was applied to verify the joint was made correctly. Well and good, but boredom apparently took its toll so it was embarrassing, to say the least, to receive a phone call from an irate Chief Engineer complaining that his brand new RCA product was inoperative because of an intermittent joint with no solder, but held together with red inspection paint. All you could do in those situations was take a deep breath, swallow and punt.

Chassis that passed mechanical inspection were sent to another area for electrical performance testing. Each test position was equipped with a custom fixture to hold the product, and all the test equipment needed to verify its operation in conformance with a step-by-step test procedure. That document, prepared in consultation with the design engineer, ranged in length from two to a hundred pages, depending on the product's complexity. Each test in the procedure had space for recording actual measurement results for the unit under evaluation; nevertheless, customers received units that obviously had not passed certain tests. As with assembly slipups, stifling work rules and indifferent attitudes of factory management made it impossible to eliminate those self-destructive lapses in quality.

Tom McIntyre was supervisor of the electrical test department. He worked under the Camden Plant Production Manager A. L. Malcarney who, to be charitable, had difficulty with anger management. A Management-by-Fear philosophy pervaded the entire factory so each supervisor acted, not in the best interest interests of the Corporation, but to protect his job, which could be terminated in an instant by the volatile Production Manager. Today we call it *PYA*. To survive in that that atmosphere, Tom prioritized everything that went on in the Test Department on the basis of two numbers: his mandated monthly production quota and the date of last day in the month. As his production goals converged with that fateful last day, relations became

very tense on the test floor; it was not a good time for an engineer to be in the area investigating performance problems. Even at other times, presence of an engineer spelled *interruption* to Tom. We were barely tolerated when a performance issue required our help, but we were never accepted gladly, especially in the dreaded last week of the month.

That all changed for me by a peculiar circumstance. One afternoon while going over some results with a Test Technician, Tom took me aside to say he needed a favor. It seems he was unable to meet his production quota the previous month for an audio/video switcher I had designed. To avoid the wrath of the tyrannical Malcarney Tom had resorted to a desperate ruse. He delivered the correct number of shipping cartons to Inventory to satisfy his production quota, but some were empty because their "phantom" switchers had not yet passed through final test. The paperwork looked good, but now he had to retrieve the cartons from Inventory so the empty ones could be properly filled with switchers that had, by then, been completed. Tom asked me to write a change order that would require returning the entire production run from Inventory for installation of "official" revisions. He was basically a good guy so I went along with him, and wrote an Engineering Change Notice to unnecessarily increase the power rating of one resistor from ½-watt to 1-watt. That was risky for me because costs to move, unpack, revise, and re-pack all the switchers would be charged to Engineering. Fortunately nobody noticed, Tom was off the hook, and I had a new friend in the factory! After that episode my projects always got the best test technicians and work rules that might have caused friction with the union mysteriously vanished.

RCA was selling our new solid state video tape recorder in large numbers during the '60s. One afternoon I made a routine visit to the Test Room when, to my surprise, I spotted fellow Phil-Monter Roland Madera, W3PWG, wearing his trademark wide suspenders. Rollie had just been hired to take up slack in final testing of the machines. He had only recently joined Phil-Mont so I didn't know him very well at first but over the next several weeks we always took a few moments to chat whenever I was in the area. A month or so later Rollie was nowhere to be seen. There had been a layoff that affected Rollie because of his low seniority. He was back again several months later when he told me finding a job in the interim had been difficult because prospective employers were reluctant to hire victims of RCA layoffs who usually would return to higher wages

at RCA when hiring picked up again. He was laid off a second time, opted for longevity and stability in his new job, and never returned to RCA.

Old bad habits and intractable management, – in Engineering and Marketing as well as Production – eventually took their toll. The Broadcast Division could no longer compete against the superior quality and advanced design of products from forward-looking domestic companies and Japan. A last gasp effort to move from Camden to a new facility in Deptford extended the life of the division for a few months but it was too late. Within several months the end of a long contribution to broadcast technology came to a sudden end when RCA was purchased by General Electric and the French firm Thomson CSF. Stanford University temporarily acquired the Princeton Laboratories. RCA ceased to exist except as a Trademark.



For Sale:

Check out this rope for your antenna project – 3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

Icom IC-756 PRO III for sale. Radio is in excellent condition, used in a non-smoking environment.

Asking \$1900 or reasonable offer.

Contact Frank KB2AYS at 609-312-9392

(de Bob, ERL)

November at Phil-Mont

3- Sun N3OWM NCS
DST ends at 02:00L
6 - Wed Board Meeting
10- Sun NC3U NCS
11- Mon Veteran's Day
13 - Wed Membership Meeting
Old Timers' Night
17- Sun KB3IV NCS
21 - Thur Evening VE session
24 - Sun K3XS NCS
28 - Thur Thanksgiving
Chanukah Begins

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and
the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***

For Sale:

Arrow dual band 2M/70 cm J-Antenna. High
quality CNC- manufactured antenna with solid
elements, SO-239 connector for single coax feed,
and all original stainless steel hardware. Like new
condition. \$35.

Contact W3NE@Comcast.net

Asus netbook win 7 home 150.00
Motorola zoom, droid 4.1 200.00
LDG Autotuner at200pc 75.00

Contact Ted Katz N3OWM, 856-663-5962

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First Class Mail

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